

Warkworth Bridge Club

## Newsletter –

# December 2025



**OUR CLUB**  
WITH HEARTS IN SPADES

Welcome to our latest newsletter – the newsletter to keep you up to date with events, competitions and people at the Warkworth Bridge Club. Many thanks to those who have contributed to this newsletter.

**2026 Bridge sessions** – Don't miss the start of bridge. Monday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> - See you there! (Friday is on a break until February 6<sup>th</sup> .)

### Coming Up at the Club:

Mondays –      Drawn Pairs – Jan 12<sup>th</sup>  
                    Social Play - Jan 19, 26<sup>th</sup>  
                    Improver Lesson - Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> Stayman  
                    Summer Competition - Feb 9, 16 and 23<sup>rd</sup>

Tuesdays –      Introductory Competition – Jan 6, 13 20 and 27<sup>th</sup>  
                    Jeannie Fraser Trophy – Feb 3, 10, 17, and 24<sup>th</sup>  
                    Warkworth Pairs - Mar 3, 10, 17, and 24<sup>th</sup>

Wednesdays –    President's trophy - Jan 7, 14, 21, and 28<sup>th</sup>  
                    Ron Barnett Trophy – Feb 4, 11, 18, and 25<sup>th</sup>  
                    Championship Pairs – Mar 4, 11, 18, 25<sup>th</sup>, Apr 1, and 8th

Fridays Online – February Pairs – Feb 6, 13, 20 and 27<sup>th</sup>  
                    March Pairs – Mar 6, 13, and 27<sup>th</sup> (assuming Interclub 20<sup>th</sup>)

Our partner stewards are very helpful in finding a partner if required. Contact Jeanette for Mondays, Vanessa for Tuesdays, Trudy for Wednesdays, Lynley for Fridays - contact details in our bridge book.

**Congratulations** Recent results from Club events are as follows:

Monday:      Singles Competition – Lynne Horner  
                    Move By Design Competition – Sarah Gordon & Michael Whaley

Tuesday:      Anniversary Pairs – Dianne Knight & Jeanette Grimmer  
                    Spring Competition – Richard Norburn & Jeanette Grimmer  
                    Christmas Pairs – Celia Knighton & David Knighton

Wednesday:    Mahurangi Trophy – Richard Norburn & Clare Loveland

Hibiscus Coast Trophy – Ian Lewington & Lynley Lewington  
Holiday Bridge - Celia Knighton & David Knighton

Friday: Oct/Nov Pairs – Stan Naylor & Sue Green (Greymouth Club)

Congratulations to the winners and to all those who participated.

## Committee Corner

**- 2025 AGM** - A great turnout for the AGM including approx. 49 proxy votes for the first year – great to see so many members actively involved in the future of our club.

**- Fees** - These are now due and if paid by 31 December are \$65, increasing on 1 Jan to \$70. If Warkworth is not your main club, the amount due is \$35

**- Table Vouchers** - the committee is keen not to have too much cash around so encourage players to use table vouchers rather than cash. \$50 can be deposited into our bank account and 10 table vouchers collected next time you play. In the New Year you will also be able to deposit \$20 and collect 4 table vouchers – maybe more appealing if you play once a week. If you pay by cash, you may receive change in table vouchers as we may not have cash on hand.

**- Scoring Training** – Our club is run by volunteers and we are looking for some more scorers – this involves coming 5-10 minutes earlier, and staying 5-10 minutes later, to set up the computer for the club session, and then to upload the information from the tablets into the computer and produce the results. Steve Moore is offering to run a tutorial session which was great last time he did this, and then new scorers will work beside a more experienced scorer until comfortable on their own. If you think this could be you, please contact Lynley.

**- Shared document for Directors, dealers, Scorers and Housekeeping** – we will soon be sending out a shared document for those who have assisted in these areas in the past. Each session needs one of each of the above – and we would like to share the load. We are also introducing a housekeeping role – responsible to ensure clubrooms are ready for the next users (this does not mean you have to do all the work – vacuum, check bathrooms, empty paper towel bins, realign tables/chairs etc). Please let Julie S know if you would be able to assist.

**- 2026 Bridge Books** – these have now mainly been distributed. Our website also has some additional information re history of sessions and trophies and some playing tips.

**- Facebook** – Don't forget to join our Facebook group (Warkworth Bridge Club) so it can be used more to promote events and help find partners. There is a weekly post about what is coming up at the club and any club news plus members are welcome to post any bridge news or if looking for partners.

**- Social Pairs Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November** – A good turnout of players from all sessions enjoyed pizza and drinks followed by fun bridge. Our next social evening is Thursday Jan 29<sup>th</sup> – again come with a partner or we will find a partner on the night. 6.30 drinks and pizza, with bridge starting around 7.10pm

**- Xmas raffle** - The Christmas raffle was drawn at our Monday evening Christmas Social event on Dec 8<sup>th</sup>. The generous donations from Snells Beach Four Square, V & L Burgess and

Warkworth Paper Plus made for 2 wonderful prizes. Mark W. won the Major gift basket and 2<sup>nd</sup> place went to Arthur W. Both were thrilled to receive their prizes full of sumptuous goods. The support from our members buying tickets is sufficient to cover a special Bridge Training event given by a guest teacher. Thank you to all who made this raffle such a success.



- **End of year sessions** – all 3 sessions enjoyed food and drinks at their last sessions of the year. How many times was the director called for refills?



### Director's Corner – thanks Kathryn

In 2025 I started my Director Training along with Heather and Jeanette. I say started because it feels like becoming a director is like learning bridge. The course is the start and then it requires years of experience to be as good as Steve Moore. I have appreciated the tolerance that many are showing as I stumble through this learner stage.

Although I have played for more than 10 years I was learning about the rules for the first time. Previously I had only picked up information when a director was called to a table I was playing at. Can I encourage more of you to learn; learn about major and minor penalty cards (nothing to do with suits), the options you are presented with when the lead comes from the wrong player, when you can change your bid, revoke rules and so many other useful facts.

Our club needs more directors. Every session needs a director whether fully trained or not. Your new committee are looking into ways we can support people in their training to help run

the sessions and to reduce the reliance on just a few people. Please contact Kathryn if you are interested in learning more.

**Monday Evening Sessions** - The Monday Social night on 8<sup>th</sup> December saw 37 members celebrate the last Monday bridge of the year. Members bought plates or drinks to share and some dressed up creating a great vibe. A wonderful, very social evening was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all of you who contributed and helped make the evening such a success. Thank you to all players, especially the intermediate players, who have helped the beginners throughout the year as they get to grips with this fascinating game. Thank you to Kathryn whose director duties did include wine refills! Monday starts up again on Jan 12<sup>th</sup> with a drawn pairs event so no partner is needed.

**Interclub Tournaments** Auckland/Northland Region Interclub competition started in March – our club entered 2 Intermediate Teams and 1 Junior team. These sessions are online on a Friday evening once a month. After 9 rounds over 9 months, it came down to the last hand for Warkworth Mahu who came out second in Intermediates, Warkworth Mata were 8<sup>th</sup> in Intermediates but 2<sup>nd</sup> in plate, and Warkworth were 2<sup>nd</sup> in Juniors. Great results for all our teams – and definitely put Warkworth on the bridge map as there were some very strong teams from our region. If you think this might interest you in 2026, contact Graeme Duhs – it would be great to enter 2 Intermediate and 2 Junior teams next year.

**Tournaments** Claire Loveland played in her first tournament for the year at North Shore; and Dianne Knight and Sarah Gordon played at Mangawhai – good to see other members playing in tournaments. Our regular tournament players Ross Longney, Graeme Duhs, Steve Moore, Alan and Jan France played in some tournaments covering 10 clubs from Whangarei to Waiheke to Cambridge since August. The annual NZB Congress tournament was played in Palmerston North in November with over 800 bridge players. Two matches a day were played over 8 days. Our members playing were Ross Longney, Graeme Duhs, Alan and Jan France. Ross had outstanding success winning the Match Point Swiss Pairs with his East Coast Bays partner – fantastic and congratulations. Ross gained 11 A points from Congress. Graeme Duhs didn't have a regular partner, and the Congress organiser arranged 4 new partners for him including a 14 year old - Graeme gained 8.5 A points from the week's bridge.

It is great to see 20 Warkworth members booked to play in our tournament on January 17 2026.

There are other local tournaments coming up. Go to <https://www.nzbridge.co.nz/events.html> as all upcoming tournaments are listed with details on how to register. For more information visit our webpage, news, masterpoints explained.

**Warkworth Annual Tournament – January 17<sup>th</sup> 2026** The Warkworth Bridge Club Annual tournament is on Saturday January 17<sup>th</sup>. This event is always fully subscribed so if you want to play contact Lynley – at time of writing we are full but we do run a waiting list as things can change. We have a max 16 tables, usually a strong field, however there are cash prizes for the top Junior and top Intermediate pairs. On our return to the club in January there will be a box for raffle donations, and Lee Fish will be donating snapper for our other raffle. We also need help behind the scenes in the kitchen – from 9am until approx. 5pm but this can be split.

We always have a reserve pair in case a pair cannot make it on the day – so that there is no sit out. If required to play, these players do not pay. If you can help in the kitchen or as a reserve player – please contact Lynley. Players from our club who have registered will be receiving an email re food for afternoon tea.

**Auckland Regional Bridge News** The Auckland Northland Regional Committee produces a monthly newsletter. This contains information on the bigger picture in the bridge world. Stories from our clubs across the region, information on activities and training available and expert discussion on hands. Every member of an affiliated club is entitled to receive the newsletter. It is free of charge. If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter subscribe [here](#).

Click [here](#) to subscribe

Or click [here](#) to read the latest newsletter – contains photos of Ross and info on Congress

**Belated Congratulations** Belated congratulations to Rich Keen who made it onto the NZ Bridge Ranking list last year – released Jan 2. He was 13= top for all novices throughout NZ to gain the most points in a single year. We will be keeping an eye out for 2025 ranking list which is released early in the new year.

**2026 Bridge Lessons** Beginner lessons start Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March – 3-5pm with Jeanette and Jan, or 7-9pm with Kathryn. Please contact Kathryn if you have friends/ neighbours etc wanting to learn.

### Dates for your Diaries

**January Bridge** – Monday starts 12<sup>th</sup> Jan, Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan and Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Jan

**Warkworth Annual Tournament** – Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Enter as per other tournaments on NZ Bridge - contact Graeme or Lynley if need any assistance

**January Social** – Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> 6.30 pm

**Bridge lessons** – start March 19th

**Rees Trophy** Wednesday evenings 2026 –April 15, 22, 29 and May 6<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday players please try and keep your new bridge books free for this competition to be available to play with players looking to move to Wednesday evening sessions. It is a handicap event too! This will be at a relaxed pace (around 7 mins per board).

### Recent Competition Winners – more photos on our website



## **Bridge Laughs – (thanks Graeme Duhs)**

- At Congress fancy dress day one couple who made 6 clubs the previous day went dressed as K and Q clubs. They went to the bar for a drink after play and the barman, also a bridge player, said I can't serve you. You're both minors.
- The brain is a wonderful organ. It starts working the moment you get up in the morning and doesn't stop until you sit down at the bridge table.
- Giving the man his physical the doctor noticed dark, ugly bruises on his shins. The doctor asked do you play hockey, soccer, or some physical sport? "No" he answered. "I play bridge with my wife".

We wish all our members a very safe and happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing you all at the bridge tables in 2026.

Should you have an article or event you think we would like to know about, please contact Lynley. We would also love to hear about members moving into/ out of the area, or visiting other clubs

Warkworth Bridge Club Committee